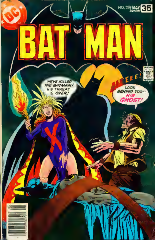
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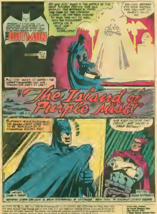
BATMAN
WE'VE KILLED THE BATMAN! HIS THREAT IS OVER!
AIEEEE!
LOOK BEHIND YOU-- HIS GHOST!

"The Island of Purple Mist!"


THE BATMAN
No way out! Right in the middle of the most bizarre mystery that has baffled The Batman in years, the case of the Crimson Coffin — he has been forced to take time out to deal with the foolhardy antics of a wild and wooly interloper!
Welcome, Batman! I've been waiting for you—and you haven't failed me!
And now mask to mask — the Caped Crusader and his tormentor meet at last!
Suddenly—simultaneously the black light goes out to be replaced by a shimmering golden ray!
One step outside that circle and you're a dead Batman!
Writer: David V. Reed
Editor: Julius Schwartz
Artists: John Calnan & Dick Giordano ✦ Letterer: Ben Oda ✦ Colorist: Jerry Serpe

BATMAN, Vol. [illegible], No. [illegible], May 1979. Published monthly by DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Second Class Postage paid at New York, N.Y. and Additional Mailing Offices. Copyright © 1979 by DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

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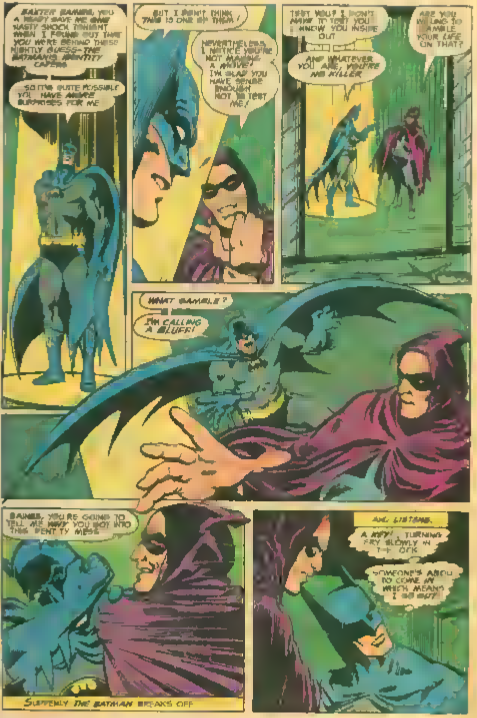
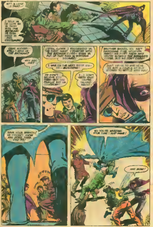
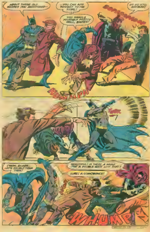
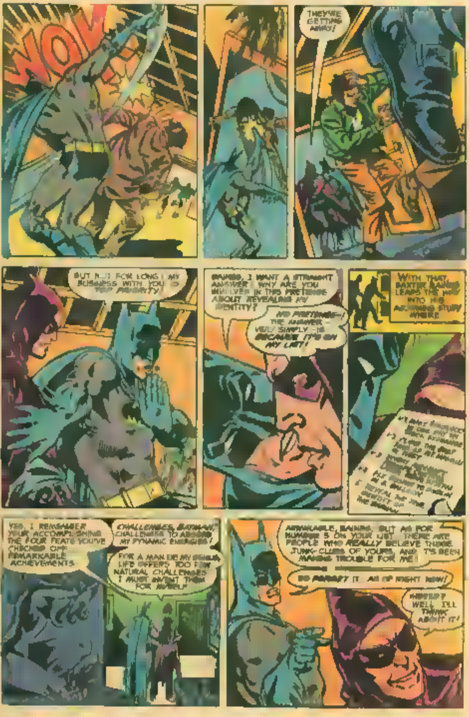
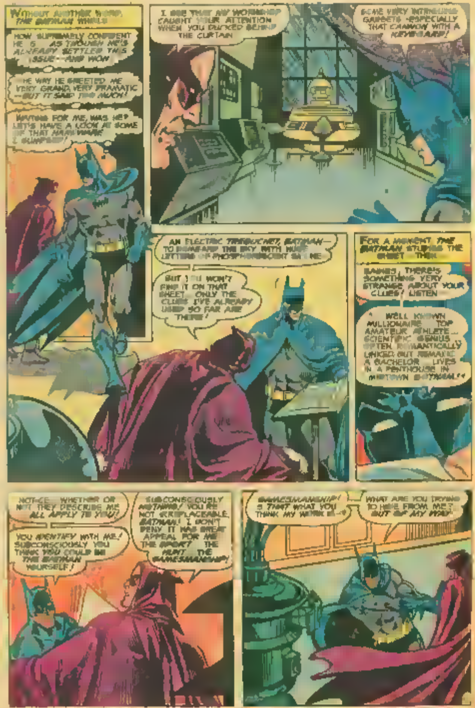
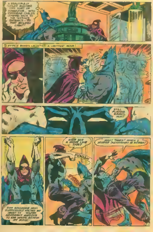

BAXTER BAINES, YOU ALREADY GAVE ME ONE NASTY SHOCK TONIGHT WHEN I FOUND OUT THAT YOU WERE BEHIND THESE NIGHTLY *GUESS-THE BATMAN'S IDENTITY* CAPERS
SO IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE YOU HAVE *MORE* SURPRISES FOR ME
BUT I DON'T THINK THIS IS ONE OF THEM!
NEVERTHELESS, I NOTICE YOU'RE NOT *MAKING A MOVE!* I'M GLAD YOU HAVE SENSE ENOUGH NOT TO TEST ME!
TEST YOU? I DON'T HAVE TO TEST YOU -- I KNOW YOU INSIDE OUT
AND WHATEVER YOU ARE, YOU'RE *NO KILLER*
ARE YOU WILLING TO GAMBLE YOUR *LIFE* ON THAT?
WHAT GAMBLE?
I'M CALLING A BLUFF!
BAINES, YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME *WHY* YOU GOT INTO THIS PRETTY MESS
SUDDENLY *THE BATMAN* BREAKS OFF
...AND LISTENS.
A *KEY!*... TURNING VERY SLOWLY IN THE LOCK
SOMEONE'S ABOUT TO COME *IN* WHICH MEANS I GO OUT!

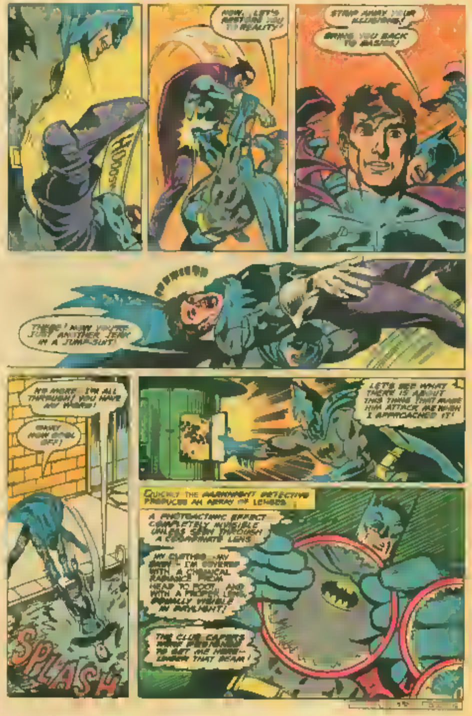

GET A LOAD O' THAT--!
I TOLD YA HE MUST BE IN TIGHT WITH THE BATMAN! HE EVEN GOES IN FOR COSTUMES!
OKAY, BUCHER-BELL! WHO IS THE BATMAN?
WHY ASK ME?
LISTEN, CLOWN, I RECOGNIZED YA THE FIRST NIGHT Y'STARTED WITH THE BATMAN CLUB-- WHEN YA PUT UP THAT SIGN IN GOTHAM SQUARE!
I WAS ON THE NEXT ROOF ON-- ER--BUSINESS!
WE DIDN'T BELIEVE YOU THEN--BUT YOU FINALLY GOT US CONVINCED!
I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
BROTHER BARNES, YOU AIN'T READING THE SITUATION RIGHT! WE DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE BLOWING THE BATMAN'S COVER, AND WE DON'T CARE!
JUST LEAD US TO HIM! WE GOT A COUPLE OF OLD SCORES TO SETTLE WITH HIM!
SAVE YOUR BREATH! HE DOESN'T KNOW ANY MORE THAN YOU DO!
SO YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME --AND MINE!
AND MINE!

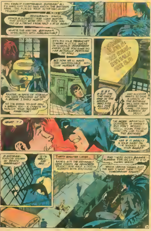

ABOUT THOSE OLD SCORES YOU MENTIONED--
--YOU CAN ADD TONIGHT TO THE TOTAL!
YOU HANDLE YOURSELF PRETTY WELL, BARNES!
SO DO YOU, BATMAN!
C'MON, BARNES-- LET'S DOUBLE-TEAM THEM!
BEAUTIFUL! IS THERE A NAME FOR A DOUBLE SHOT LIKE THAT?
SURE! A COINCIDENCE!
WHUMP!

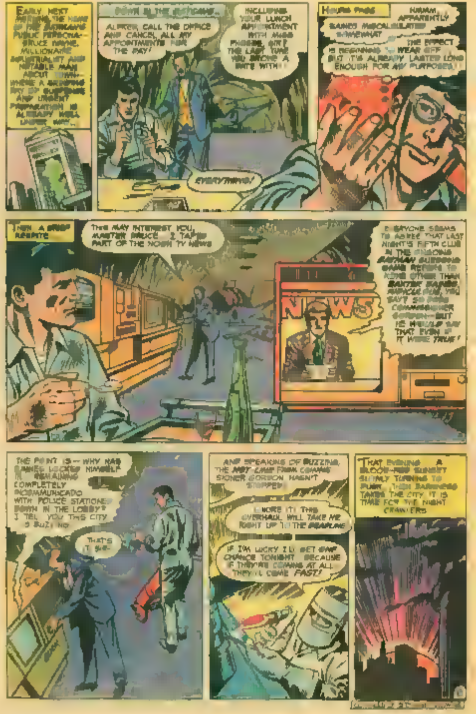

WOW
THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!
BUT NOT FOR LONG! MY BUSINESS WITH YOU IS TOP PRIORITY!
BAINES, I WANT A STRAIGHT ANSWER. WHY ARE YOU INVOLVED IN THIS PRETENSE ABOUT REVEALING MY IDENTITY?
NO PRETENSE--! THE ANSWER VERY SIMPLY--IS BECAUSE IT'S ON MY LIST!
WITH THAT, BAXTER BAINES LEADS THE WAY INTO HIS ADJOINING STUDY WHERE
#1 MAKE $1,000,000 IN ONE DAY ON STOCK EXCHANGE
#2 FLOOR THE BEST BOXER AT MY WEIGHT
#3
#4 FLY AROUND THE WORLD IN A BALLOON
#5 REVEAL THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THE BATMAN
YES, I REMEMBER YOUR ACCOMPLISHING THE FOUR FEATS YOU'VE CHECKED OFF. REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS.
CHALLENGES, BATMAN! CHALLENGES TO ABSORB MY DYNAMIC ENERGIES!
FOR A MAN OF MY GENIUS, LIFE OFFERS TOO FEW NATURAL CHALLENGES. I MUST INVENT THEM FOR MYSELF.
ADMIRABLE, BAINES. BUT AS FOR NUMBER 5 ON YOUR LIST... THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO REALLY BELIEVE THOSE JUNK-CLUES OF YOURS, AND IT'S BEEN MAKING TROUBLE FOR ME!
SO FORGET IT... AS OF RIGHT NOW!
FORGET? WELL, I'LL THINK ABOUT IT!

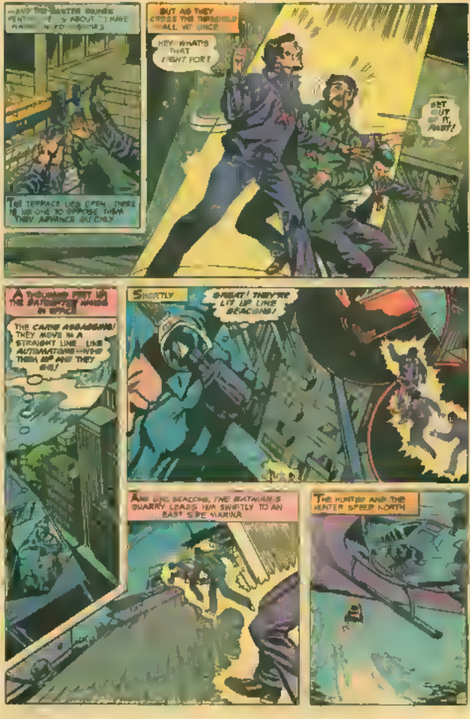

WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, THE BATMAN WHIRLS
HOW SUPREMELY CONFIDENT HE IS -- AS THOUGH HE'S ALREADY SETTLED THIS ISSUE -- AND HOW
THE WAY HE GREETED ME -- VERY GRAND, VERY DRAMATIC -- BUT IT SAID TOO MUCH!
WAITING FOR ME, WAS HE? LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT SOME OF THAT HARDWARE I BUMPED!
I SEE THAT MY WORKSHOP CAUGHT YOUR ATTENTION WHEN YOU DUCKED BEHIND THE CURTAIN
SOME VERY INTRIGUING GADGETS -- ESPECIALLY THAT CANNON WITH A KEYBOARD!
AN ELECTRIC TREBUCHET, BATMAN -- TO BOMBARD THE SKY WITH HUGE LETTERS OF PHOSPHORESCENT SA NE
BUT YOU WON'T FIND IT ON THAT SHEET. ONLY THE CLUES I'VE ALREADY USED SO FAR ARE THERE!
FOR A MOMENT THE BATMAN STUDIES THE SHEET -- THEN
GAMES, THERE'S SOMETHING VERY STRANGE ABOUT YOUR CLUES! LISTEN
"... WELL KNOWN MILLIONAIRE -- TOP AMATEUR ATHLETE... SCIENTIFIC GENIUS -- OFTEN ROMANTICALLY LINKED BUT REMAINS A BACHELOR -- LIVES IN A PENTHOUSE IN MIDTOWN GOTHAM!"
NOTICE -- WHETHER OR NOT THEY DESCRIBE ME -- ALL APPLY TO YOU!
YOU IDENTIFY WITH ME! SUBCONSCIOUSLY YOU THINK YOU COULD BE THE BATMAN YOURSELF!
SUBCONSCIOUSLY -- NOTHING! YOU'RE NOT IRREPLACEABLE, BATMAN! I DON'T DENY IT HAS GREAT APPEAL FOR ME -- THE SPORT? -- THE HUNT -- THE GAMESMANSHIP!
GAMESMANSHIP! IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK MY WORK IS --?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO HIDE FROM ME? OUT OF MY WAY!

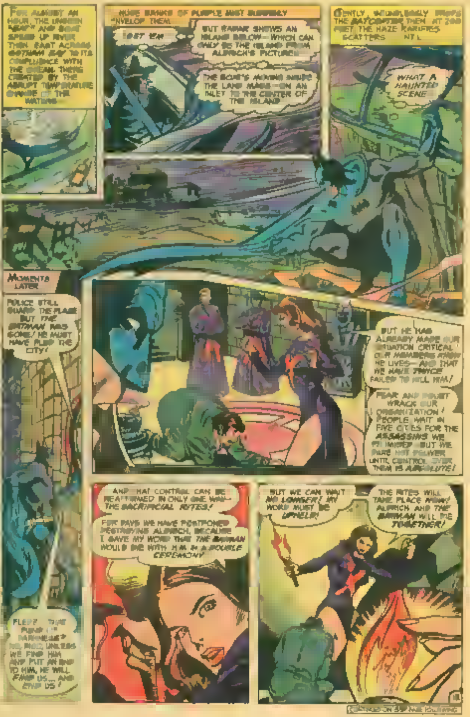

A BEAUTIFULLY TOOLED MACHINE ... SOME SORT OF GENERATOR... WITH OVERHEAD CABLES LEADING BACK TO THE TERRACE ENTRANCE -- TO THAT GOLDEN LIGHT!
SUDDENLY BANES LAUNCHES A LIGHTNIN' MOVE!
STILL PLAYING GAMES, HUH?
FOR SOMEONE WHO SUPPOSEDLY KNOWS MY IDENTITY, YOU'RE AMAZINGLY ANXIOUS TO SEE WHO'S BEHIND MY MASK!
EVER SEE A MOVE LIKE THIS?
FOOSH
MANY TIMES! WHEN I STUDIED TAEKWONDO IN KOREA!
7


WHOOSH
NOW... LET'S RESTORE YOU TO REALITY!
STRIP AWAY YOUR ILLUSIONS!
BRING YOU BACK TO BASICS!
THERE! NOW YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER JERK IN A JUMP-SUIT!
NO MORE... I'M ALL THROUGH! YOU HAVE MY WORD!
OKAY! NOW COOL OFF!
SPLASH
LET'S SEE WHAT THERE IS ABOUT THIS THING THAT MADE HIM ATTACK ME WHEN I APPROACHED IT!
QUICKLY THE [illegible] DETECTIVE PRODUCES AN ARRAY OF LENSES
A PHOTOACTINIC EFFECT COMPLETELY INVISIBLE UNLESS SEEN THROUGH A COORDINATE LENS
MY CLOTHES... MY SKIN... I'M COVERED WITH A CHEMICAL RADIANCE FROM HEAD TO FOOT, AND WITH A PROPER LENS, NORMALLY VISIBLE IN DAYLIGHT!
THE CLUE CAPERS WERE DESIGNED TO GET ME HERE-- UNDER THAT BEAM!


YOU FINALLY COMPREHEND, BATMAN! ALL I'VE HAD TO DO WAS WATCH THE MIDTOWN AREA... THE PLACES YOUR ALTER EGO MUST FREQUENT--
...RESTAURANTS, BANKS, OFFICE BUILDINGS... AND LONG BEFORE THAT EFFECT WORE OFF... I'D PICK YOU OUT OF A CROWD FROM HALF A MILE AWAY!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, BATMAN? SPEECHLESS WITH ADMIRATION?
BAXTER, IN SPITE OF YOURSELF YOU HAVE PROVIDED ME WITH A BREAK I BARELY HOPED--
SO I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A BREAK TOO--A CHANCE TO REALIZE YOUR SECRET AMBITION!
IT'S PUT YOUR TIMETABLE WORK A LITTLE AHEAD OF SCHEDULE. REMEMBER, EVERY CLUE YOU GAVE SO FAR ACTUALLY PERTAINS TO YOU!
BUT HOW WILL I MAKE BAXTER UNMISTAKABLE WITH CLUE NUMBER 5?
"FINAL CLUE 5: HIS REAL INITIALS ARE B.B."
B-B-BUT I'M THE ONLY ONE IN THE WORLD WHO FITS ALL FIVE CLUES!
AND WHOEVER WANTS TO TAKE A CRACK AT THE BATMAN WILL KNOW WHERE TO COME... TO TAKE A CRACK AT YOU!
WHAT??
THE MORE IMPORTANT QUESTION IS WHERE? BUT DON'T WORRY... YOU'LL SOON FIND OUT WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE THE BATMAN!
SEE IF IT REALLY IS YOUR AMBITION... OR SHOULD I SAY... YOUR GAME?
B-BATMAN--YOU'VE SIGNED MY DEATH WARRANT!
IT'S WAIT... AND SEE.
THIRTY MINUTES LATER...
BAXTER GOT THE MESSAGE! HERE COMES AN ARMORED TRUCK... AND HALF A DOZEN GUARDS WITH SHOTGUNS
AND THERE GOES BAXTER RUNNING FOR HIS LIFE TO WHO KNOWS WHERE.
WHICH LEAVES THINGS JUST THE WAY I WANT THEM... TOMORROW NIGHT.


EARLY NEXT MORNING, THE HOME OF THE BATMAN'S PUBLIC PERSONA— BRUCE WAYNE, MILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST AND NOTABLE MAN ABOUT TOWN— WHERE A GRUELING DAY OF SUSPENSE AND URGENT PREPARATION IS ALREADY WELL UNDER WAY...
DOWN IN THE BATCAVE...
ALFRED, CALL THE OFFICE AND CANCEL ALL MY APPOINTMENTS FOR THE DAY!
INCLUDING YOUR LUNCH APPOINTMENT WITH MISS PHOEBE, SIR? THE LAST TIME YOU BROKE A DATE WITH...
EVERYTHING!
HOURS PASS
HMMM... APPARENTLY BARNES MISCALCULATED SOMEWHAT...
THE EFFECT IS BEGINNING TO WEAR OFF BUT IT'S ALREADY LASTED LONG ENOUGH FOR MY PURPOSES...
THEN A BRIEF RESPITE
THIS MAY INTEREST YOU, MASTER BRUCE. I TAPED PART OF THE NOON TV NEWS
EVERYONE SEEMS TO AGREE THAT LAST NIGHT'S FIFTH CLUE IN THE ONGOING BATMAN GUESSING GAME REFERS TO NONE OTHER THAN BAXTER BARNES. RADICAL FUN, YOU SAY? SO DOES COMMISSIONER GORDON— BUT HE WOULD SAY THAT EVEN IF IT WERE TRUE!
NEWS
THE POINT IS— WHY HAS BARNES LOCKED HIMSELF IN, REMAINING COMPLETELY INCOMMUNICADO WITH POLICE STATIONED DOWN IN THE LOBBY? I TELL YOU THIS CITY IS BUZZING
THAT'S IT, SIR—
AND SPEAKING OF BUZZING, THE HOT LINE FROM COMMISSIONER GORDON HASN'T STOPPED!
IGNORE IT! THIS OVERHAUL WILL TAKE ME RIGHT UP TO THE DEADLINE
IF I'M LUCKY I'LL GET ONE CHANCE TONIGHT... BECAUSE IF THEY'RE COMING AT ALL THEY'LL COME FAST!
THAT EVENING... A BLOOD-RED SUNSET SLOWLY TURNING TO PURPLE... THEN DARKNESS TAKES THE CITY. IT IS TIME FOR THE NIGHT CRAWLERS


—AND THE MASTER ... ABOUT TO HAVE ...
BUT AS THEY CROSS THE THRESHOLD ALL AT ONCE
HEY WHAT'S THAT LIGHT FOR?
GET OUT OF IT, FAST!
THE TERRACE LIES OPEN. THERE IS NO ONE TO OPPOSE THEM. THEY ADVANCE QUICKLY
A THOUSAND FEET UP, THE BATMAN HANGS IN SPACE
THE CAPING ASSASSINS! THEY MOVE IN A STRAIGHT LINE LIKE AUTOMATONS—WIND THEM UP AND THEY GO!
SHORTLY
GREAT! THEY'RE LIT UP LIKE BEACONS!
AND LIKE BEACONS, THE BATMAN'S QUARRY LEADS HIM SWIFTLY TO AN EAST SIDE MARINA
THE HUNTED AND THE HUNTER SPEED NORTH


For almost an hour, the unseen "Bat" and boat speed up river then east across Gotham Bay to its confluence with the ocean. There, created by the abrupt temperature change of the waters...
Huge banks of purple mist suddenly envelop them.
Lost 'em
But radar shows an island below—which can only be the island from Alfrich's pictures!
The boat's moving inside the land mass—on an inlet to the center of the island.
Gently, soundlessly drops the Batcopter. Then at 200 feet the haze rarifies... scatters... until...
What a haunted scene!
Moments later
Police still guard the place but the Batman has gone! He must have fled the city!
But he has already made our situation critical! Our members know he lives—and that we have twice failed to kill him!
Fear and doubt wrack our organization! People wait in five cities for the assassins we promised, but we dare not deliver until control over them is absolute!
And that control can be reaffirmed in only one way—the sacrificial rites!
For days we have postponed destroying Alfrich, because I gave my word that the Batman would die with him in a double ceremony!
Fled? The fiend of darkness? No, priest, unless we find him and put an end to him, he will find us... and end us!
But we can wait no longer! My word must be upheld!
The rites will take place now! Alfrich and the Batman will die together!
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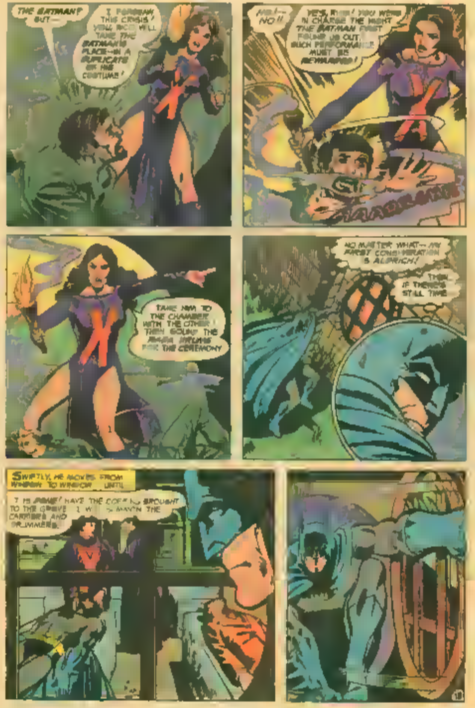
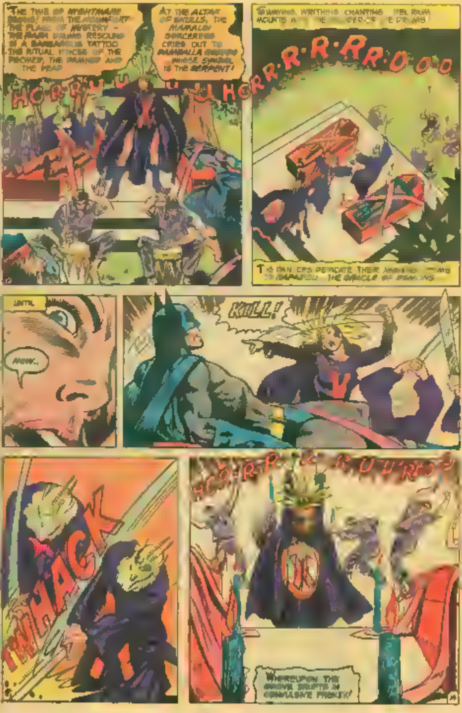
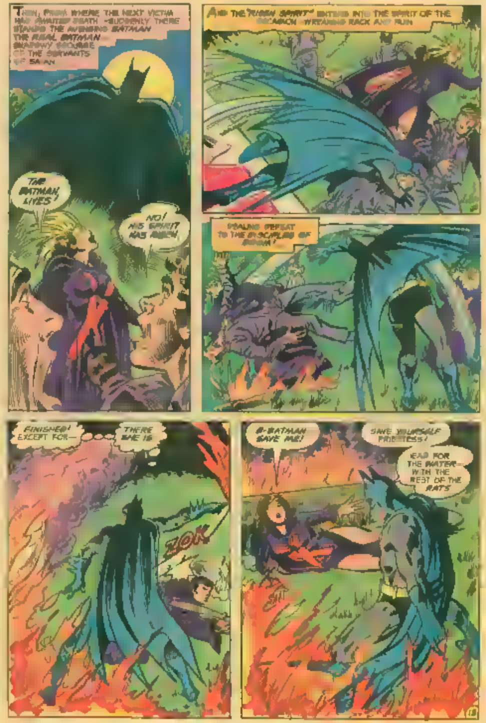
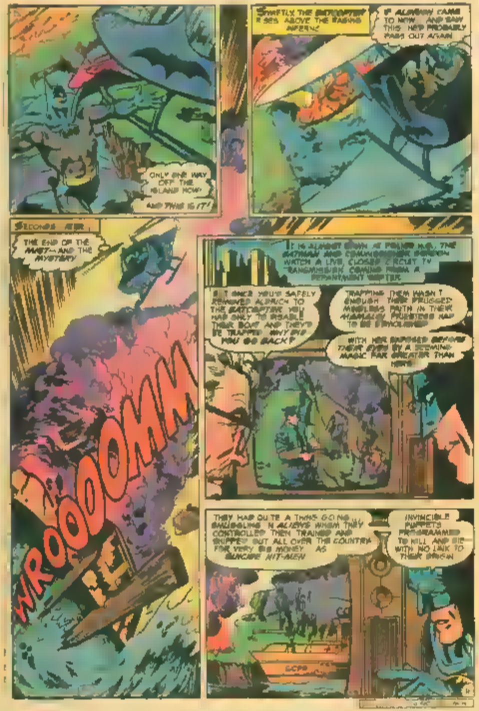
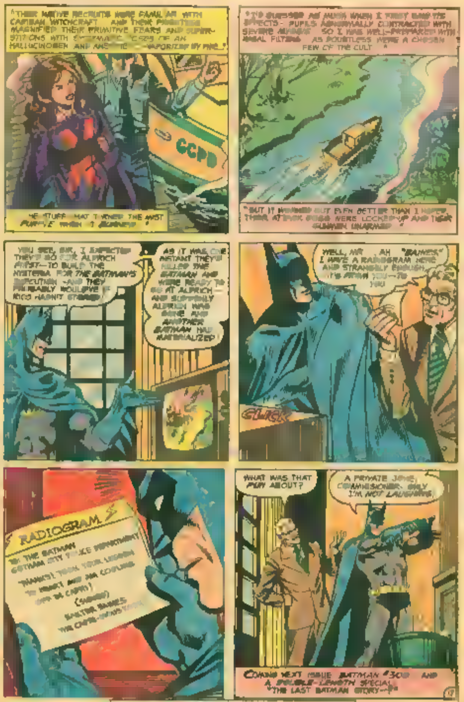

THE BATMAN? BUT—
I FORESAW THIS CRISIS! YOU, RICO, WILL TAKE THE BATMAN'S PLACE—IN A DUPLICATE OF HIS COSTUME!
NO!— NO!!
YES, RICO! YOU WERE IN CHARGE THE NIGHT THE BATMAN FIRST FOUND US OUT. SUCH PERFORMANCE MUST BE REWARDED!
TAKE HIM TO THE CHAMBER WITH THE OTHER! THEN SOUND THE DRUMS FOR THE CEREMONY
NO MATTER WHAT— MY FIRST CONSIDERATION IS ALDRICH!
THEN IF THERE'S STILL TIME
SWIFTLY, HE MOVES FROM WINDOW TO WINDOW ... UNTIL
IT IS DONE! HAVE THE COFFIN BROUGHT TO THE GRAVE ... I WILL SUMMON THE CARRIERS AND DRUMMERS.


THE TIME OF NIGHTMARE BEGINS! FROM THE HOUNFORT -- THE PLACE OF MYSTERY -- THE RADA DRUMS RESOUND IN A BARBAROUS TATTOO THE RITUAL VOICES OF THE DROWNED, THE DAMNED AND THE DEAD
AT THE ALTAR OF SKULLS, THE MAMALOI SORCERESS CRIES OUT TO DAMBALLA OUEDO -- WHOSE SYMBOL IS THE SERPENT!
HORRUUU UUU
SWAYING, WRITHING, CHANTING -- DELIRIUM MOUNTS WITH THE THUNDER OF THE DRUMS!
HORR-R-R-RRR-OOO
THE DANCERS DEDICATE THEIR [illegible] TO BARAFOU -- THE ORACLE OF DEMONS
UNTIL
MMM..
KILL!
WHACK
HORRR-RUURRO!
WHEREUPON THE GROVE ERUPTS IN CONVULSIVE FRENZY!
14


THEN, FROM WHERE THE NEXT VICTIM HAD AWAITED DEATH --SUDDENLY THERE STANDS THE AVENGING BATMAN THE REAL BATMAN SHADOWY SCOURGE OF THE SERVANTS OF SATAN
THE BATMAN LIVES!
NO! HIS SPIRIT HAS RISEN!
AND THE "RISEN SPIRIT" ENTERS INTO THE SPIRIT OF THE OCCASION --WREAKING RACK AND RUIN
DEALING DEFEAT TO THE DISCIPLES OF DOOM!
FINISHED! EXCEPT FOR—
THERE SHE IS
ZOK
B-BATMAN SAVE ME!
SAVE YOURSELF PRIESTESS!
HEAD FOR THE WATER WITH THE REST OF THE RATS


ONLY ONE WAY OFF THE ISLAND NOW
AND THIS IS IT!
SWIFTLY THE BATCOPTER RISES ABOVE THE RAGING INFERNO
IF ALDRICH CAME TO NOW AND SAW THIS HE'D PROBABLY PASS OUT AGAIN
SECONDS LATER
THE END OF THE MAST— AND THE MYSTERY
WROOOOMM
IT IS ALMOST DAWN AT POLICE H.Q. THE BATMAN AND COMMISSIONER GORDON WATCH A LIVE, CLOSED CIRCUIT TV TRANSMISSION COMING FROM A DEPARTMENT 'COPTER
BUT ONCE YOU'D SAFELY REMOVED ALDRICH TO THE BATCOPTER YOU HAD ONLY TO DISABLE THEIR BOAT AND THEY'D BE TRAPPED. WHY DID YOU GO BACK?
TRAPPING THEM WASN'T ENOUGH. THEIR DRUGGED MINDLESS FAITH IN THEIR MAMALOI PRIESTESS HAD TO BE DEMOLISHED
WITH HER EXPOSED BEFORE THEIR EYES BY A SEEMING MAGIC FAR GREATER THAN HERS
THEY HAD QUITE A THING GOING... SMUGGLING IN ALIENS WHOM THEY CONTROLLED, THEN TRAINED AND SHIPPED OUT ALL OVER THE COUNTRY FOR VERY BIG MONEY AS SUICIDE HIT-MEN
INVINCIBLE PUPPETS PROGRAMMED TO KILL AND DIE WITH NO LINK TO THEIR ORIGIN
GCPD


"THEIR NATIVE RECRUITS WERE FAMILIAR WITH CARIBBEAN WITCHCRAFT... AND THEIR PRIESTESS MAGNIFIED THEIR PRIMITIVE FEARS AND SUPERSTITIONS WITH SYSTEMATIC DOSES OF AN HALLUCINOGEN AND ANESTHETIC -- VAPORIZED BY FIRE..."
CCPD
THE STUFF THAT TURNED THE MIST PURPLE WHEN IT BURNED."
"I'D GUESSED AS MUCH WHEN I FIRST SAW ITS EFFECTS -- PUPILS ABNORMALLY CONTRACTED WITH SEVERE MIOSIS... SO I WAS WELL-PREPARED WITH NASAL FILTERS... AS DOUBTLESS WERE A CHOSEN FEW OF THE CULT."
"BUT IT WORKED OUT EVEN BETTER THAN I HOPED. THEIR ATTACK DOGS WERE LOCKED UP AND THEIR GUNMEN UNARMED."
YOU SEE, SIR, I EXPECTED THEY'D GO FOR ALDRICH FIRST -- TO BUILD THE HYSTERIA FOR THE BATMAN'S EXECUTION -- AND THEY PROBABLY WOULD'VE IF RICO HADN'T STRAYED!
AS IT WAS, ONE INSTANT THEY'D KILLED THE BATMAN AND WERE READY TO GO AT ALDRICH -- AND SUDDENLY ALDRICH WAS GONE AND ANOTHER BATMAN HAD MATERIALIZED!
WELL, MR... AH... "BANES" I HAVE A RADIOGRAM HERE AND STRANGELY ENOUGH, IT'S FROM YOU -- TO YOU!
CLICK
RADIOGRAM
TO: THE BATMAN
GOTHAM CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
THANKS! TOOK YOUR LESSON
TO HEART AND [illegible] COSTUME
[illegible] CAPRI!
(SIGNED)
WALTER BANES
THE CAPE-[illegible]
WHAT WAS THAT PUN ABOUT?
A PRIVATE JOKE, COMMISSIONER. ONLY I'M NOT LAUGHING.
COMING NEXT ISSUE: BATMAN #300 AND A DOUBLE-LENGTH SPECIAL "THE LAST BATMAN STORY--?"

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE SECOND WEEK IN MARCH
]

BAT-SIGNALS

c/o DC COMICS INC. 75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

Okay, don't move! Before we even start this letter column we're going to tell you about *BATMAN* #300 (next issue) before we run out of room! This special anniversary issue will feature a double-length story by David V. Reed (Batman "The Last Batman Story—?") and it is almost anything you have ever seen in this magazine before. Art is scheduled to be [illegible] by Dick [illegible] (and special [illegible] more-[illegible] work-itself!) So don't miss this double-size dynamite, *BATMAN* #300, when it goes on sale the month of March!

And now on to the letters!

Dear Editor:

Mark **BATMAN #295** in your memory banks, my friends. We are about to witness the new Golden age of Batman. (Please pardon my gilded double entendre.) [illegible] Mike first handled The Batman as regular artist, I was annoyed [illegible] I think Mike's style is suited to the Caped Crusader. That was followed by the "Who Killed Batman" series with equally unsuited art. But now, thanks to Gerry Conway and Michael Golden, The Batman has regained his notoriety.

"The Adventure of the Houdini Whodunit" was not that baffling a mystery, but it was perhaps one of the most original ones to ever appear in a Batman magazine. Befitting this type of story was the long-[illegible] return of the Batman Mystery Analysts, causing me no end to learn that the group has remained intact.

As I said, the mystery wasn't so baffling, but it was made special by several original elements: the use of magicians and illusionists, the appearance of real-life mentalist Glenn Falkenstein, and that of the Magic Palace (the Batman version of Los Angeles' Magic Castle.)

Yet, considering all this, it was really Mike Golden's artwork that made the issue a classic. Graphically, Mike is as precise and original as his DETECTIVE COMICS counterpart Marshall Rogers, but Golden adds a bit more realism and fluidity to his style. Graphics were matched by superb action sequences and a portrayal of The Batman as the frightening man he is. How Julie Schwartz managed to rob Fort Knox and get away with it is beyond me, but I sincerely hope that the Golden age is here to stay.

TONY EDWARDS
464 N. Bermuda Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90004

The gilding age is in full swing, Tony, but not in this magazine. Mike is currently handling *Man-Bat* in *BATMAN FAMILY* (with the strong possibility that he'll be picking up the Batman art special in that mag too) and has handled in the ink-spots of Marshall Rogers by taking over *MISTER MIRACLE*!—JS

Dear Julie,

"The Adventure of the Houdini Whodunit" was excellent!

The return of the Mystery Analysts, a group I never particularly cared for, was handled quite well, giving each of the members a bit more characterization than they've ever had before. (Particularly Kaye Daye.) The story was quite a legitimate whodunit in the John Dickson Carr tradition [illegible] and the only "cheat" was in the ending, in which you didn't explain how Marvin managed that [illegible] of the bar.

And then there's the escape. Would a Batman tale be complete without one? Using an actual Houdini trap to imprison him—and then the ultra-simple, ultra-obvious method he used to escape—was in the best Batman tradition.

I will fault Gerry Conway's dialogue only once, when Marvin speaks to [illegible] to Batman in the middle of a fight. Sure he would! But I suppose dramatic license must be allowed.

Finally, while I prefer super-villains somewhat similar to Batman himself, an occasional issue like this is a breath of fresh air... particularly when you get a story-and-art team like Conway and Golden.

AL SCHROEDER III
2307 Old Hickory Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37215

[illegible] if we had waited till the end to tell you about *BATMAN* #300, we'd be out of room for it, since all we have space for is—Bob Rozakis

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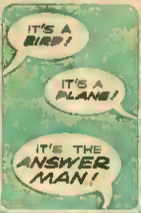
STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION
(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1. Title of Publication: BATMAN
1A. Publication No.: [illegible]
2. Date of Filing: October 1, 1977
3. Frequency of Issue: Monthly
3A. No. of Issues Published Annually: 12
3B. Annual Subscription Price: $6.00
4. Location of Known Office of Publication: 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019
5. Location of the Headquarters or General Business Offices of the Publishers: 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019
6. Names and Complete Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: Publisher: DC Comics Inc., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019; Editor: Julius Schwartz, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019; Managing Editor: Joe Orlando, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019.
7. Owner: DC Comics Inc., wholly owned by Warner Communications, Inc., a publicly held company, both at 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019.
8. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities: None.
9. For Completion by Nonprofit Organizations Authorized to Mail at Special Rates: Not Applicable.
10. Extent and Nature of Circulation: [illegible]
11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. Arthur Gutowitz, Business Manager
12. For Completion by Publishers Mailing at the Regular Rates: [illegible] (Signed) Arthur Gutowitz, Business Manager

THE DC FEATURE PAGE


IT'S A BIRD!
IT'S A PLANE!
IT'S THE ANSWER MAN!

Q. How does one gain entrance to the [illegible] of comic book writing?—Mark [illegible] A. The best way is to submit plot outlines for proposed stories with a sample page of a full script. It is not a wise idea to write an entire script before the editor okays the plot, because if he doesn't like the basic premise you've wasted a lot of time. Realize, however, that our editors have heavy workloads and don't have time to go through submissions quickly—it may take weeks before you get a response.

Q. Does the Green Lantern of Earth work for the Guardians?—Brian [illegible] A. No, his origin is totally [illegible] and that's something which will be explored in the GREEN LANTERN SPECIAL coming your way in May.

Q. In SUPERBOY #212, Shrinking Violet is called an [illegible], but in #222, she's called an Imskian. Why the difference?—Mark Evans A. The terms are interchangeable, just as an alien could refer to you as an Earther, Earthman, Earthling or Terran.

Q. Were RAGMAN #6 or THE JOKER #10 ever published?—Paul Balza. A. No, both titles were discontinued with the previous issues.

Q. When was the first DC Comic published?—Frank Somers. A. NEW FUN COMICS #1 was dated February 1935 and later became MORE FUN COMICS. Our longest-running title is ADVENTURE COMICS, which began as NEW COMICS in December 1935.

Q. Could you explain the connection between Omac and Kamandi?—Kyle [illegible] A. Omac is Kamandi's grandfather, and that connection will be further explored when the One Man Army Corps gets a solo feature in the back of his grandson's magazine.

Q. Will KAMANDI, NEW GODS or STARFIRE ever become monthlies?—M.H. A. Frequency depends on sales, so if the sales on the books go up, they get "promoted" to monthlies. Since STARFIRE was cancelled, that would seem to eliminate her chances.

Q. Can you name some heroes who have died and come back to [illegible]?—Paul Rysuski. A. Lightning Lad of the Legion is one. Robotman of the Doom Patrol is another, and both [illegible] and the Spectre were created when their alter-egos were killed.

Q. Who is the black Legionnaire on the SUPERBOY/LEGION LIMITED COLLECTORS' EDITION?—M.M. Kramer A. Tyroc.

Q. When are you going to put the origin of Kolter in SECRET ORIGINS?—Gary Fraser A. As soon as we find out what his secret origin is!

Got a question for the Answer Man? Send it to BOB ROZAKIS, DC Comics, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10019

dc profiles number 31

kurt schaffenberger

Ask any comic book fan who grew up in the 1950s who Kurt Schaffenberger is and he'll say, "Oh, he's the guy who drew Lois Lane."

Ask the same question of a comic book fan from the early 1940s and he'll probably say, "Kurt Schaffenberger is the man who drew Captain Marvel."

And if you're a comic book fan of today, you're probably familiar with Kurt's work on the Lois Lane feature in *Superman Family*, his Captain Marvel work for *Shazam!* and his *World's Finest* stories.

All of which just goes to show the remarkable staying power of this talented artist who's been drawing comic books since 1941.

Kurt Schaffenberger had just graduated from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn when he landed a job inking backgrounds for the Jack Binder shop which was turning out whole comic books for Fawcett.

But like so many of his generation, World War II interfered with his budding career and Kurt wound up in the Army. By the end of the war he found himself working for the OSS translating information from Allied spies behind Nazi lines.

Back in the States after the war, Kurt found work as a freelancer for Fawcett and soon became the main artist for *Captain Marvel*. By the time Fawcett folded its comics line in 1953, Kurt was drawing virtually the entire series—*Captain Marvel*, *Captain Marvel Jr.* and *Marvel Family* in addition to occasional work on *Mary Marvel*.

For the next four years, Kurt did some commercial art as well as work for ACG and Atlas Comics. Then while vacationing in Maine in 1957, he got a call from DC writer Otto Binder (a friend from his days at Fawcett). DC was giving Lois Lane her own title. Was Kurt interested in drawing it? He was. A few samples he sketched of the character prompted editor Mort Weisinger to give him the assignment. Since then, he's drawn every member of the Superman family.

In 1974, Kurt became the regular artist on *Shazam!* while continuing his work on *Superman Family*.

Kurt's artwork also graces the front of the recently published *Shazam!* hardback, published by Harmony Books.